

[name of editor or reporter]
[for TV, just put "Assignment Desk"]

FEATURE/PHOTO OP

Blessing of Animals at [name of parish]

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO BRING THEIR ANIMALS FOR THIS SPECIAL BLESSING
AT [NAME OF PARISH] ON [DAY AND DATE AND TIME]**

EVENT COMMEMORATES THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

WHAT [name of parish] will hold its annual Blessing of Animals event on [month, day and time]. Everyone in the community is invited to bring their pets and have them blessed. [add any other pertinent information here. Is it OK to bring large animals? etc. Will attendees and their pets receive a gift, treat or food? Are any veterinary services being provided?]

WHY Christians everywhere celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi (traditionally observed on Oct. 4) by having their pets blessed in the name of this patron saint of animals and ecology. The custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. He wrote the "Canticle of the Creatures," an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures."

St. Francis of Assisi is a Roman Catholic saint who took the gospel literally by following all Jesus said and did. He is known as the founder of the Order of Friars Minor, more commonly known as the Franciscans. Born in 1181, he died at the age of 44, but left a legacy that celebrates the love of all animals worldwide.

WHEN [Date here and time]

WHERE [Name of parish]
[address]

**INTERVIEW
OPPS** Interviews with the Rev. _____ and pet owners
(contact [name here] for interviews)

VISUAL Photos of all types of pets and their owners.

CONTACT For more information or to set up interviews call [name here at XXX/XXX-XXXX] or email name@email.address.com. For more information about [] parish, log on to www.web.address.here.